



Beef Briefs

The Latest Information on Beef Cattle Nutrition



THE CALVING GAP & SPRING OF 2012

By: Jack McCoubrey

What a spring, seems it is similar to the spring of 2010, everything got going early, but we have had some damaging frosty weather over the past couple of weeks. Alfalfa fields are looking a bit yellow and certainly stressed from the numerous frosty mornings.

What calving weather though, producers that calve outside are surely loving this dry weather and from all reports calving is going very well. I have had the odd report of some isolated scours, but overall few problems. With these drier than normal conditions we can spread out the calving areas, and with less crowding there is less stress and problems.

I have had the odd report of cocci, and perhaps this comes from the warmer weather allowing cocci to survive. We have numerous producers that do feed an ionophore in a confinement yard at a measured label rate prior to and during calving. This helps to prevent the mama cow from shedding cocci in the manure reducing the chance of cocci infecting the calf. If you do have a cocci problem in your calves, talk with your Veterinarian to discuss treatment. If your calves are of the size and age to start on creep, many producers will feed Kenpal King of Creep with Bovatec to help control cocci challenges. Be sure to discuss treatment protocol with your Vet.



Many producers have started creep feeding these early born calves, with the goal of adding a few extra pounds at a time when the calves feed conversion is very efficient. This takes a bit of stress and load off mama at a time that she is cycling and in rebreeding mode. Adding a few pounds to the calf now can surely add revenue at sale time and with the increased prices of these calves, we as producers can spend a bit on additional feed knowing we are going to get a good return on the investment. From my perspective, I have creep fed for years when my calves weighed 200-300 lbs. At this weight feed conversions

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FEATURING...

KENPAL'S KING OF CREEP

**A HIGHLY-PALATABLE CREEP
FEED FOR CALVES**



- **Developed to promote feed intake in calves**
- **Helps increase weaning weights**
- **Helps achieve and maintain a healthy hair coat**
- **See results with top sale prices for calves**

**GETS CALVES OFF TO
THE RIGHT START**

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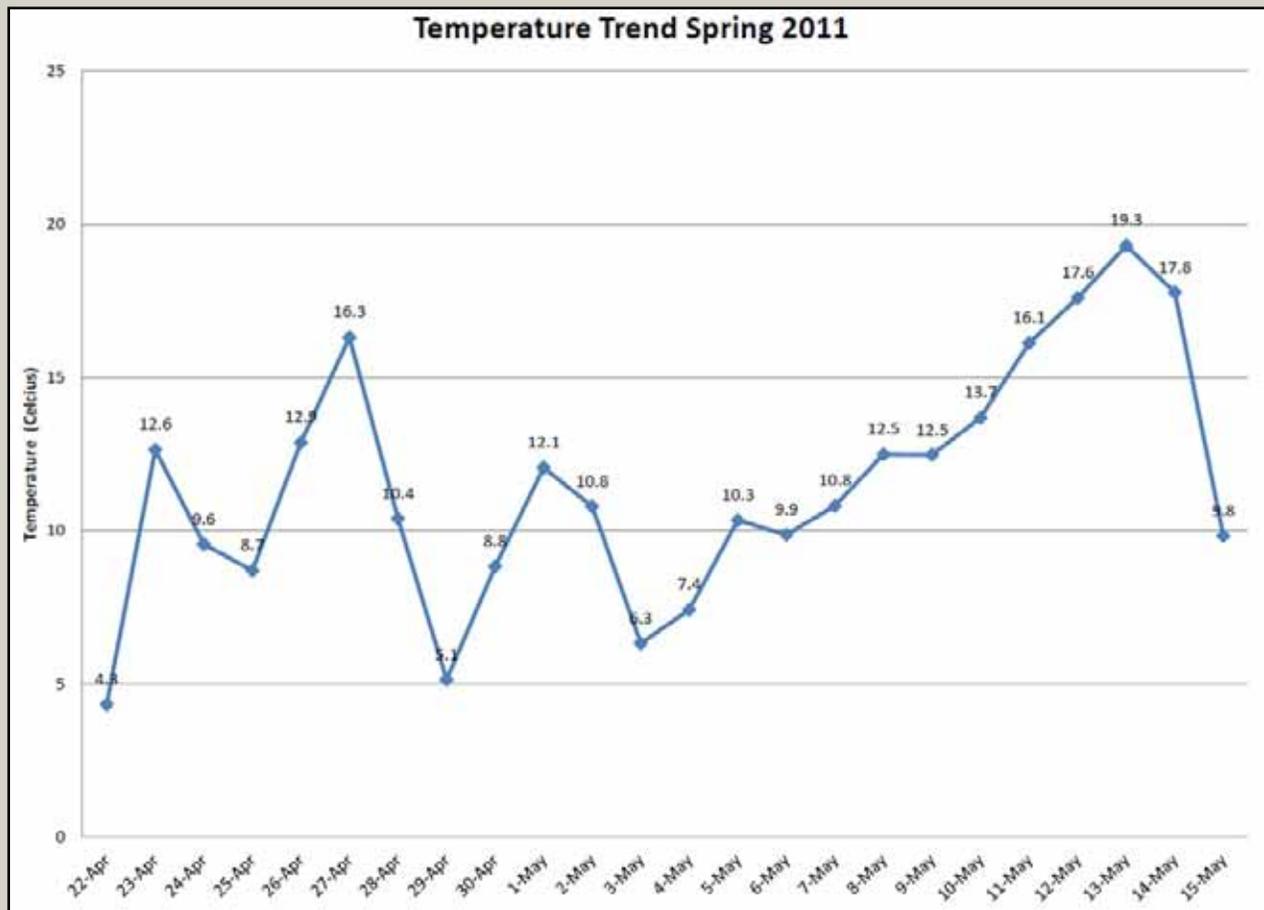
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are a bit of an unknown factor, but let's say it is 4.5: 1, (4.5 lbs of feed per pound of calf). If feeding 2 kg(4.4 lbs)/calf/day of King of Creep at a cost of approximately 75 cents/day and guessing this coming October/November calf prices for 600-700 lb calves could be \$1.50-\$1.70/lb, an investment of 75 cents/day could add approximately \$1.60 for 1 lb of calf.

The CALVING GAP!

We have had several reports of a shutdown in calving. No calves for 2-3 weeks from the breeding period during May and the early part of June last year. In the last half of February till the first part of March producers had anticipated calves earlier with the first turn out of the bulls, but there seemed to be a hold up to get started calving and if you were calving all of a sudden there was a shutdown, during this period the Kenpal Beef Team discussed this problem, and Ken Palen suggested that we look into what happened. Our Ruminant Nutritionist, Laura Martin, took a look at the weather patterns last year at breeding. We know it was terribly wet last May, but what Laura found was we had great swings in temperatures, one day a low of 5°C and then 2 days of very warm temps of +20°C. The question is, could this be a problem for the cow or the bull or both and how would it stress them and cause a delay in conception? We do not know.



Calcium Deficiency

Once again we have had the odd producer report that he has a cow go down with Calcium deficiency, which seems to be due to the lack of Calcium in the feed caused by a short fall on mineral consumption. Just yesterday I talked to a producer that had two cows go down, he was feeding grass hay that had not been fertilized, so we have to assume the vitamin/mineral values of this hay was low, and he was feeding salt with his mineral that already had salt in it, I suggested he take the salt away and let his cows take on the correct level of salt and mineral from the mineral. Calving and breeding is the most important time of the year, and a good time to check your mineral feeders, check your consumption levels and give us Kenpal guys a call anytime to discuss these issues.

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Cows Losing Condition

As I make my producer calls/contacts we have had the odd situation with cows losing condition post calving. Not a very good thing to happen with re-breeding a few days away. I had a similar situation in my own herd, I could see conditioning fading, so I took to feeding 5 lbs of a grain ration, there was just not enough octane in my hay to get the job done and I have good hay. My cow condition has come back and they have aggressively cycled, and with all this good sunshine, I have seen only one re-cycle. With two other producers that had the same concerns as I with cow condition and breeding shape, I suggested feeding 4-5 lbs of corn, this has resulted in a complete turnaround, within a couple of weeks their cow condition had changed, hair coats were shiny and healthy. If you have concerns with losing conditioning you do need to supplement, call us to discuss.

Lice

As I travel and visit with many producers, there has been more evidence of lice than normal years and this may be the result of the mild winter. Lots of licking and scratching. This needs to be looked after and can be with Ivomec/Dectomax or just a simple treatment of De-Lice/LiceX. These lice problems can suppress heats also. Talk to your vet if you have lice concerns.

Mouldy Feed

Seems with the mild winter there appears to be more mouldy wrapped feed, be careful, we have had numerous cases of reported abortions and some sickness. If you are breeding, try to stay away from any mouldy feed, this too can affect conception rates. Feed good quality feed, these cattle are worth a whole lot more than a year ago, replacement bred females have doubled in price, take care of your cattle.

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SUCCESS WITH KENPAL'S KING OF CREEP™ & BEEF NURSE COW

GET YOUR CALVES OFF TO THE RIGHT START WITH KENPAL'S KING OF CREEP™

Paul and Tim Klopp own and operate Cedar Villa Angus Farms; a 150 Black Angus Cow Herd and cash crop operation in Zurich, Ontario. They started feeding Kenpal's King of Creep™ to their calves 4 years ago, and quickly started seeing the benefits. All the calves are fed free choice with self creep feeders. The main benefits they find from using Kenpal's King of Creep™ are; heavier weaning weights and healthy calves.

Shortly after switching to Kenpal's King of Creep™, Paul and Tim also decided to feed their cows Kenpal's Beef Nurse Cow, which they feed free choice year round. They found that their cow's mineral intake improved after switching to Kenpal. The health of the cows and the calves born is great, the cows breed back quickly and have high conception rates.

A portion of Paul and Tim's calves go to their own freezer beef trade, while the remainder get sold as stockers.

Paul and Tim look forward to continuing to see the benefits from feeding high quality products to their cows.

Paul and Tim Klopp
Cedar Villa Angus Farms
Zurich, ON



Cornstalks

If ever there was a real good spring to bale up cornstalks, this is it. I have seen many producers that have got right at it, stalks make a great bedding and especially with them getting as dry and brittle as they are this spring. As I talked with one producer, he just went out with his rotary rake, raked the stalks into windrows and baled them. Cornstalks can be a good alternative to wheat straw. With some moulds and mycotoxins in corn this past year keep cows well fed so they are not eating a lot of corn stocks used for bedding.

Once again, great cattle weather, great cattle prices, take care of them, we are in some very rewarding times, feed them right and check your mineral feeder this summer. Kenpal free choice minerals have salt added to help meet the targeted intake of mineral per day. DO NOT ADD additional block or loose salt or the animal may eat just salt and a reduced amount of mineral. If you are trying to reduce the total intake of mineral consumption, mix a little salt right in the mineral feeder with the mineral, do not offer it separate or you will lose control.

The BEEF GUY!



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